

REMARKS

Claims 8-27 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claims 1-7 have been canceled, claims 8, 9 and 15 have been amended, and new claims 20-27 have been added.

Claims 1 through 19 have been rejected as being anticipated by Chiba.

Claim 8 has been amended to set forth that the inner part is connected to the piston and cylinder unit, and completely embedded in the rubber buffer. In the embodiment of Figures 1 and 2, the inner part is represented by reference 5, and the rubber buffer by references 1A and 1B. As one can see, element 5 is completely embedded in the rubber buffer.

The rejection equates the buffer of claim 8 with elements 7A and 7B of Chiba. The inner part appears to be equated with the non-labeled cup-shaped piece between the nut 12 and the washer 21. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of this cup-shaped piece in Chiba being embedded in elements 7A or 7B. Chiba appears to be silent with regard to the purpose of this cup-shaped piece. Since the drawings do not specifically show the cup-shaped piece embedded in a rubber buffer, and since Chiba is silent with regard to the purpose of the cup-shaped piece, there can be no teaching nor suggestion in Chiba that the cup-shaped piece is to be embedded in a rubber buffer. Therefore this feature of the inner part being completely embedded in a rubber buffer causes claim 8 to define over Chiba.

Applicant finds no other structure in Chiba which could be equated with the inner part of claim 8, and still have all of the same relationships as the inner part of claim 8. Applicant notes that claim 8 has further been amended to set forth that the reinforcement part is

embedded in the rubber buffer. Therefore if the washer 21 of Chiba was equated with the inner part, and the cup shaped piece of Chiba equated with the reinforcing part, the cup-shaped piece would not be embedded in the rubber buffer as required by claim 8. Therefore even if this interpretation of Chiba does not anticipate claim 8.

Claim 15 also sets forth that the inner part is completely embedded in the rubber buffer, and that the reinforcing part is embedded in the rubber buffer. As described above, neither the cup-shaped piece, nor the washer 21, of Chiba have all of these features, and therefore these elements of Chiba cannot anticipate the inner part and reinforcement part of claim 15. Chiba therefore fails to anticipate all of the features of amended claim 15. Claim 15 therefore defines over Chiba.

Claims 9 and 16 set forth that the rubber buffer has a damping buffer portion and a tensioning buffer portion. In the embodiment of Figures 1 and 2, the tensioning buffer portion is shown by Reference 1B, and the dampening buffer portion is shown by Reference 1A. In the present invention, when the bearing is assembled, the tensioning portion 1B is preferably compressed between the housing 3 and the body part 10. This securely fixes the rubber buffer relative to the body part 10 and the housing 3. This is advantageous for securely connecting the piston cylinder unit to the vehicle, and sealing the bearing to the vehicle. In the prior art, the pretension can be disadvantageous, because it can adversely effect the dampening that a rubber bushing provides a piston cylinder unit and a vehicle. By the present invention dividing the rubber buffer into a pretension portion, and a damping portion, the present invention is able to provide a strong connection of the piston cylinder unit to the vehicle, and also provide

damping of movement which is unaffected by the pretensioning. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Chiba of any dividing of a buffer between a tension portion and a damping portion. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Chiba that either of elements 7A or 7B are to be a tensioning or a damping portion, and therefore the tensioning and damping portions set forth in claims 9 and 16 further define over Chiba.

New independent claim 23 sets forth that the body, the housing, the first portion and the reinforcing part are shaped and arranged to hold the first portion in pretension when the housing is connected to the body part. Claim 23 also sets forth that the housing, the second portion and the carrier part are shaped and arranged to cause the second portion to damp movement between the carrier piece and the body part, and to have less pretension than the first portion. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Chiba of dividing elements 7A and 7B so that one portion damps movement between a carrier piece and a body part, and has less pretension than another portion. Since this division between damping and pretension is not found in Chiba, Chiba fails to anticipate all of the features of new independent claim 23. Claim 23 therefore defines over Chiba.

New claim 26 sets forth that the first portion is more tightly fixed to the housing than the second portion. This is arranged in the present invention, since the buffer needs to be tightly connected to the vehicle, but also needs to be moveable to damp movements between the piston cylinder unit and the vehicle. By more tightly fixing the first portion to the housing than the second portion, this can occur. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Chiba of one portion being more tightly fixed to a vehicle than another portion, and therefore claim 26 further defines over the prior art.

Claim 26 also sets forth that the second portion is more moveable with respect to the housing than the first portion. This allows the second portion to perform more damping movements while still have the first portion tightly hold the buffer to the vehicle. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of any portion of a buffer being more moveable with respect to a housing than another portion, and therefore claim 26 further defines over the prior art.

Claim 27 sets forth that the second portion is more damping of movement between the carrier piece and the body part than the first portion. This allows one portion to perform more of a mounting or fixing function, and the other portion to perform the damping function. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Chiba of a buffer having a portion which is more damping of movement than another portion. Claim 27 therefore further defines over Chiba.

New claim 20 depends from claim 15 and sets forth that the inner part includes first and second sides extending radially from the piston cylinder unit, with the first side extending radially farther than the second side. This is shown in the embodiment of Figure 2 where the right side of inner part 5 extends radially farther to the right than the left side extends radially to the left. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Chiba of any inner part having this asymmetrical shape and therefore new claim 20 further defines over Chiba.

Claims 21 and 25 set forth that the carrier piece and the reinforcing part are spaced from each other. As one can see from the embodiment of the present Figures, the reinforcing part 2 and the inner part 5 are spaced from each other. In Chiba, the cup-shaped piece and the washer 21, which are equated with the carrier piece and reinforcing part, are clearly arranged adjacent to each other. Therefore these portions of Chiba do not have the same relationship as the inner part and reinforcing part of these claims.

Claim 21 further sets forth that the reinforcing part is spaced from the piston rod. Applicant notes that both the cup-shaped piece and the washer 21 in Chiba are adjacent to a piston rod, and therefore these elements of Chiba further cannot anticipate the features set forth in claim 21. Claim 21 there further defines over the prior art.

Claim 22 sets forth that the housing includes an inner shoulder where the diameter of the reinforcing part decreases with increasing distance from the inner shoulder. Claim 22 also sets forth that the diameter of the reinforcing part decreases with distance to the body part. As one can see from Figure 1, as the reinforcing part 2 extends upward toward the body part, the diameter decreases. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of any structure in Chiba with a diameter which decreases as it extends toward a body part, and has all of the features of the reinforcing part of the claims. Claim 22 therefore further defines over the prior art.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

At this time Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

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